



SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS REPORT

URBAN GROWTH & INFRASTRUCTURE ISSUES LEGISLATIVE STUDY COMMISSION

NOVEMBER 5, 2009

Patricia K. Harris, Director

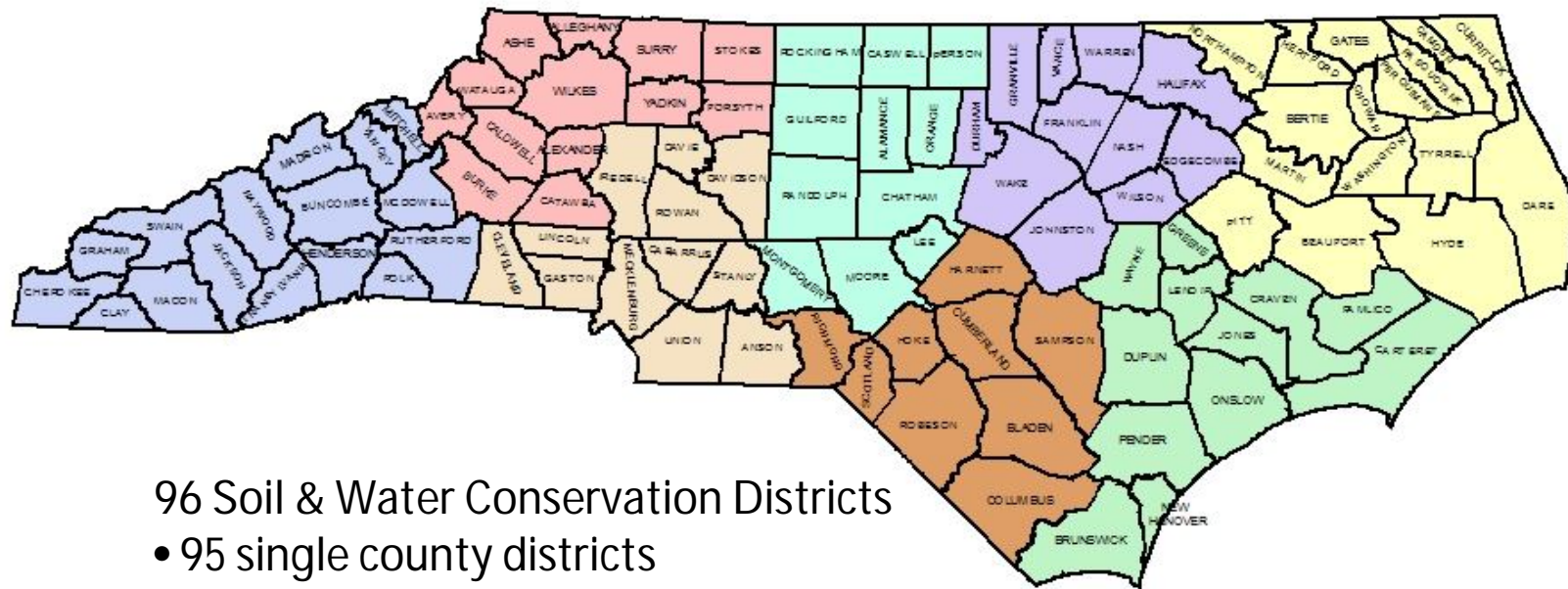
Division of Soil and Water Conservation

NORTH CAROLINA
SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION
CONSERVATION



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Areas of the North Carolina Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts



96 Soil & Water Conservation Districts

- 95 single county districts

- 1 multi-county district

492 nonpartisan district supervisors

270 district staff

Legend

Area 1
Area 2
Area 3
Area 4
Area 5
Area 6
Area 7
Area 8



LOCAL SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

- General Statute 139
- 5 nonpartisan district supervisors
- 3 elected through general election
- 2 appointed by the Soil & Water Conservation Commission
- volunteers





LOCAL SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

*Provide local leadership for the delivery
of voluntary, incentive-based
conservation programs targeting the
private working lands of North Carolina*

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DISTRICT RESOURCES

- Districts leverage county resources with private, state and federal resources to direct technical and financial assistance to private landowners and to put conservation best management practices (BMPs) on the landscape of North Carolina
- Division of Soil & Water Conservation 
- Natural Resource Conservation Service 
- Various grant sources (e.g. CWMTF, EPA 319)



STATE INVESTMENTS

- Annually, the State provides \$4000 in matching funds to each district to offset operating costs
- In FY2008-09, districts matched state funds with \$13,433,957 in local government services and resources for soil & water conservation
- 116 cost share district technicians - split funded with county & state funds
- Technical & financial assistance programs



N.C. AGRICULTURE COST SHARE PROGRAM

- SWC Commission (policy & oversight) and Division manages program
- Division recommends allocations based on program parameters including county resource needs, availability of technical assistance, district performance
- SWC Commission allocates funds to local districts
- **Local district determines what practices are funded within county**
- **Cost-share contract between district & landowner**
- Technical assistance provided by NRCS & district employees
- **75:25% cost-share for BMPs** (based on average cost & not actual cost)
- **100% of incentive payments** (e.g. conservation tillage)
- Technical Review Committee researches & recommends BMPs for approval

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N.C. AGRICULTURE COST SHARE PROGRAM

*Purpose: to improve
water quality by reducing
agricultural non-point
source pollution into the
state's waterways*



1983—2009 Program Accomplishments

Total Number of Contracts	52,381
Acres Affected	2,397,231
Soil Saved-tons	7,118,299
Nitrogen (N) Saved-lbs	20,027,851
Phosphorus (P) Saved-lbs	5,738,869
Waste (N) Managed-lbs	90,891,315
Waste (P) Managed-lbs	70,445,258

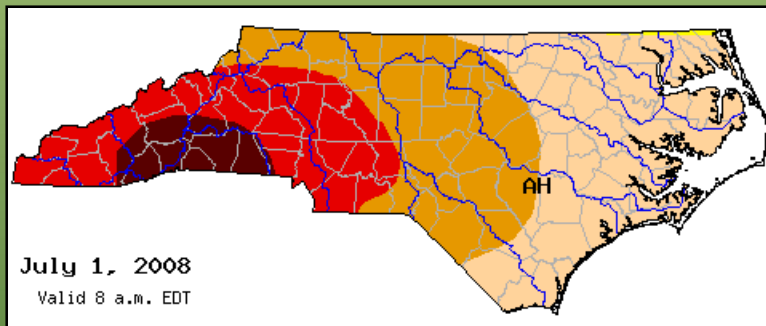
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N.C. AGRICULTURE COST SHARE PROGRAM Drought Response Program

\$8,987,372

- Rural Center \$5.5 million
- NC General Assembly \$1.5 million
- SWC Commission \$1 million
 - Local Districts \$987,372



*Little Contentena Creek
Pitt County (photo courtesy Pitt
Soil & Water Conservation District)*



*Damaged pastures
Wake County (photo courtesy Wake
Soil & Water Conservation District)*

**\$33 million of assistance requests received
from farmers & agricultural landowners**

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N.C. AGRICULTURE COST SHARE PROGRAM

Drought Response Program

Eligibility:

- Existing water supply inadequate to meet existing water needs (livestock & irrigation)
- Operation in existence 3 yrs
- Operation not expanded within 3 yrs.
- Adjusted gross income <\$250,000 or >75% derived from farming/forestry

Practices: pasture renovation, well construction or reconstruction, pond restoration/repair, micro-irrigation

Impacts: achieved water quality and quantity; new clients; increased producer's knowledge of proper pasture management



Center pivot irrigation system retrofitted with efficient drop nozzles



New livestock watering well



Early stages of pasture renovation project

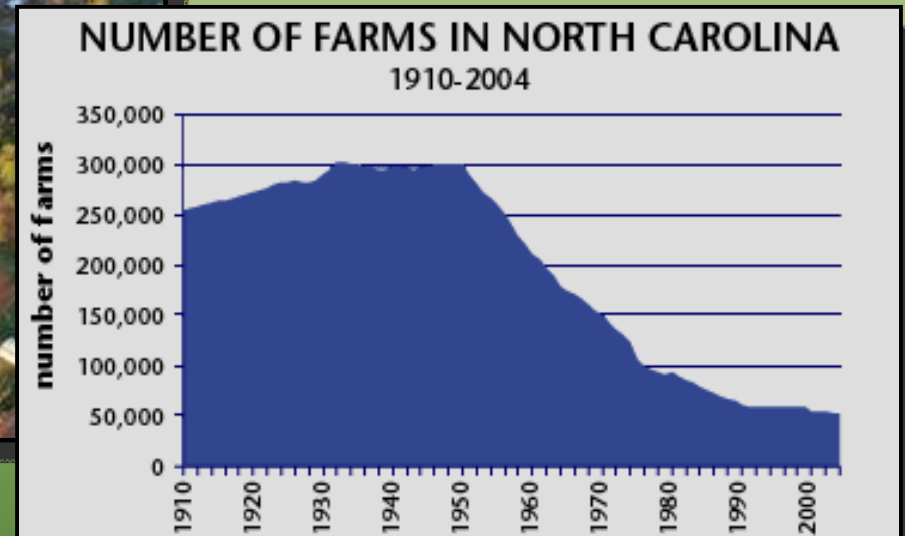


Pasture renovation project using no-till grass drill

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North Carolina's Changing Landscape

**6th leading state
in urbanization**





Community Conservation Assistance Program (CCAP)

- Authorized Summer 2006 – Session Law 2006-78
- Modeled after NC Agriculture Cost Share Program
- Eligible on non-agricultural lands
- Retrofit only – sites must be developed 3+ years
- Eligible landowners ~ homeowners, schools, parks, businesses, towns, cities, churches, etc.
- Provides up to 75% reimbursement for BMPs
- Follows DWQ, NRCS, SWCC standards & policies



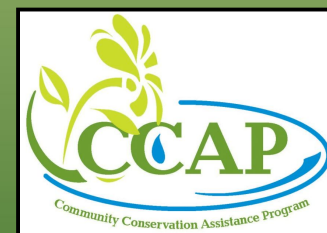
Rain Garden



Cistern



Streambank Protection



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Community Conservation Assistance Program



- ◆ Bioretention area
- ◆ Backyard rain garden
- ◆ Stormwater wetland
- ◆ Backyard wetland
- ◆ Cistern
- ◆ Critical area planting
- ◆ Diversion
- ◆ Abandoned well closure

- ◆ Grassed swale
- ◆ Imp. surface conversion
- ◆ Permeable pavement
- ◆ Pet waste receptacle
- ◆ Riparian buffer
- ◆ Stream restoration
- ◆ Streambank protection
- ◆ Marsh Sills



COST OF COMMUNITY SERVICES STUDY

(American Farmland Trust, August 2007)

Median cost per dollar of revenue raised to provide public services

	Residential	Commercial & Industrial	Working & Open Land	Source
Chatham	\$ 1.14	\$ 0.33	\$ 0.58	Renkow, 2007
Union	\$ 1.30	\$ 0.41	\$ 0.24	Dorfman, 2004
National Median	\$ 1.19	\$ 0.29	\$ 0.37	